

### ***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested. Entry of this amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested to put the claims in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 12, 13, 17-20, 24-32 and 34-38 are pending in the application, with claims 12, 34 and 36 being the independent claims. Support for the amendments to claims 12, 34, 36 and 38 appears, *inter alia*, in the specification as-filed on page 41, lines 6-10. Support for new claim 39 appears, *inter alia*, in the specification as-filed on page 21, line 15 and from page 69, line 11 to page 70, line 26. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based the above amendments and the previously submitted remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

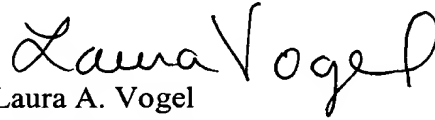
### ***Conclusion***

All of the previously stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Vogel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura A. Vogel  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 55,702

Date: March 24, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
506749v1